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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/762,806	01/21/2004	Vernard W. Sanders	636-20-017	5409

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Marvin E. Jacobs
KOPPEL & JACOBS
Suite 215
2151 Alessandro Drive
Ventura, CA 93001

EXAMINER

LUGO, CARLOS

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3676

DATE MAILED: 03/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/762,806

Applicant(s)

SANDERS, VERNARD W.

Examiner

Carlos Lugo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 14-36 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 January 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "34" has been used to designate both as a side of the astragal housing (Figures 1 and 2) and a floor of the chamber of the block (Figure 3).
2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description:
 - Element 18 is not illustrated in the drawings.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement-drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the examiner does not accept the changes, the applicant will be notified

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and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The specification is objected to because of the following informalities:

- Page 22 Line 4, change "110" t -100-.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

4. **Claims 1,4,13,15 and 27 are objected** to because of the following informalities:

- Claim 1 Line 16, delete the phrase "received cover plate".
- Claim 4, change "wherein an astragal comprises said channel" to -wherein said channel is disposed in an astragal-.
- Claim 13 Line 2, change "nuts:" to -nuts.-.
- Claim 15 Line 1, change "according to claim 15" to -according to claim 14-.
- Claim 27 Line 1, change "according to claim 27" to -according to claim 26-.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

- The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. **Claims 1-13 are rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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Claim 1 recites the limitation "said strike plate aperture receiving said strike plate received male fasteners threrethrough" in lines 11 and 12. It is unclear what the applicant is claiming as his invention since the strike plate aperture (either 62 or 64) does not receive the male fasteners. Therefore, this limitation will not be considered in the examination. Appropriate correction is required.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. **Claims 14-36 are allowed.**
8. **Claim 1 would be allowable** if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action. Claims 2-13 would also be allowed because the claims depend from claim 1.

Reasons For Allowance

9. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 14 and 26 are allowable over the prior art of record because the teachings of the references taken as a whole do not teach or render obvious the combination set forth, including that the cover plate straddle the opening of the channel on the astragal (Claim 1) and that the spring leaves forces the retaining rails to abut the retaining guides of the astragal while a part of the spring leave abut the bottom portion of the astragal (Claims 14 and 26).

Sanders (US 5,328,217) disclose an adjustable strike mounting system. The system comprises male fastener (33), female fastener (112) and positioning block (110).

The positioning block comprises a block and spring leaves (130). The block comprises a hole (124) and a chamber therein (Figure 15b). The chamber is adapted to receive and retain the female fastener therein (Figure 15b). The hole is adapted to receive the male fastener therethrough and mate with the female fastener within the chamber (Figure 16). The block is positioned in an astragal channel (Figure 16).

Nicholas (US 5,118,151) teaches that it is well known in the art to have an adjustable strike mounting system that includes a cover plate (3) and to have a positioning block (32) that includes opposing retaining rail (18).

However, Sanders '217, as modified by Nicholas, fails to disclose that the cover plate straddle the opening of the channel and that the spring leaves forces the retaining rails to abut the retaining guides of the astragal while a part of the spring leave abut the bottom portion of the astragal.

As to the cover plate, Nicholas teaches a cover plate (3), however, the cover plate is positioned over the doorframe, not straddle to an opening on the doorframe.

As to the spring leaves, Sanders '217 discloses that the block has spring leaves (130), however, the spring leaves do not abut against the bottom portion of the astragal (14). Sanders '217 uses the spring leaves (130) to prevent the nut (112) from slipping out of the block, not to abut against the bottom of the astragal.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should

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preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Lugo whose telephone number is 703-305-9747. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-6pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 703-308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5771.

C. C.

Carlos Lugo
AU 3676

March 4, 2005.



DANIEL P. STODOLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600